

# Kelli Root named CHFS Employee of the Month



Kelli Root, Out of Home Care Branch Manager in the Division of Protection and Permanency, was selected CHFS Field Office Employee of the Month for June.

Kelli was named OOH Branch Manager in July. Her nominator wrote that, in her previous position of Social Service Specialist in the Southern Bluegrass Region, she was already instrumental in the DCBS Child Welfare Transformation efforts by offering solutions and meeting tight deadlines in order to implement change.

Kelli led statewide diligent recruitment subcommittees and provided solutions to barriers for children in foster care receiving permanency and solutions to foster parents receiving appropriate supports. She was a vital team member in the development of the new KY FACES website.

Kelli Root was named Out of Home Care Branch Manager in July and was previously a Social Service Specialist in the Southern Bluegrass Region. She was selected CHFS Employee of the Month – Field Staff – for June 2019.

(<https://prdweb.chfs.ky.gov/kyfaces>)

In addition, Kelli has assisted in amending regulations to create a wider array of services for relatives, fictive kin and foster parents. This was all in addition to day-to-day support for frontline R and C workers.

Congratulations, Kelli! Get to know her better.

## **When people ask what you do, how do you describe it?**

I usually say that I work to improve the services to our state's foster and adoptive families.

## **What are your favorite tasks related to your work?**

I enjoy developing solutions that both improve services to families and support the front line staff.

## **What are your professional goals in your role?**

I want to be a support to front line staff and help make positive changes in our system.

**What was your strangest day on the job?**

There are so many! It is hard to choose! Most strange days included some sort of contact with animals, including roosters, snakes, dogs, etc.

**What is a challenge you and your coworkers recently tackled?**

Our team recently worked to develop the new child specific foster home type. It was a team effort and took many hours to implement and train staff statewide.

**How do you and your coworkers celebrate each other and your successes?**

We work so well as a team and we are proud of the work we each bring to the table. We also enjoy working with one another, which makes the process much smoother.

**What is the most rewarding part of your job?**

Seeing successes with our youth and families is the most rewarding part of any day.

**You have been a front-line worker, a supervisor and now a branch manager. What are some of the best ways to show support for front-line staff?**

Staff must feel that you are on their team. It is important that they know that they can come to you for advice, support, and encouragement without judgement. Taking the time, the staff needs and meeting them where they are is imperative. Every worker requires a different type of supervision and as a supervisor you have to learn what that style is for each person.

**How does helping children achieve permanency make you feel?**

This is one of the most important aspects of our work, and I feel happy for the children and families and proud of staff.